

**THE
HEALTH OF
WORSBROUGH**

1972

WORSBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (YORKS.)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1972



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30295361>

WORSBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Divisional Health Office,
33 Queens Road,
BARNSELEY.

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31st December, 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the
WORSBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1972.

The Registrar General's estimated population for your district showed a very slight rise during the year. The birth rate remained slightly in excess of the National figure.

There was a reduction in the adjusted death rate and the principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were diseases of the heart and circulation, cancer and respiratory disease.

The remaining vital statistics were very satisfactory and the peri-natal mortality rate was well below the National level. It is pleasing to record no infant deaths under one year of age during the year.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease showed a rise during the year due to the occurrence of measles mainly during the second quarter of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support, understanding and encouragement during the year. I have, once again, received excellent co-operation from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. Dove, your Clerk and other officials of the Council.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Divisional Administrative Officer, Mr. L. S. Wrigg, and the staff of the Divisional Health Office for their loyal support and help given to me during the year.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

C. G. ODDY,
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WORSBROUGH

SECTION 1

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area	.. .. .	3,420 acres
Population (Census 1971)	.. .. .	15,433
Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1972	.. .. .	15,340
No. of inhabited houses according to rate book at 31st December, 1972	.. .. .	5,207
Rateable value at 1st April, 1972	.. .. .	£397,497
Nett product of a new penny rate	.. .. .	£3,725,657

The coal industry is the largest employer of male labour in the district. In addition, a chemical works for the manufacture of gas, hard coke and chemical by-products operates in the district. The textile industry is the chief source of female labour in the district. There is also a factory concerned with the manufacture of lead storage batteries.

The principal employers of female labour, Messrs. N. Corah (St. Margaret) Ltd., are engaged in the manufacture of knitwear.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General's estimated population at mid 1972 was 15,340, as compared with 15,380 at mid 1971. The excess of births over deaths or the natural increase of population was 19, compared with 54 in the previous year.

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	103	93	196
Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>
	110	100	210

The number of live births registered was 25 less than in 1971. The Registrar General has again supplied a comparability factor for the year, which relates the proportion of women of child-bearing age in the district with the proportion in a standard population.

The adjusted birth rate for your district last year was 14.9 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 14.2 per 1,000 in 1971 and with 14.8 per 1,000 estimated population for England and Wales.

Illegitimate births represented 7% as compared with 6% in the previous year.

Stillbirths

3 stillbirths occurred in Worsbrough during the year, 3 more than in the previous year. This represents a still-birth rate of 14 per 1,000 total births as compared with Nil in 1971, and with 12 per 1,000 total births for England and Wales.

Deaths

The adjusted death rate, which is the crude death rate multiplied by the comparability factor, was 12.4 per 1,000 estimated population, as compared with 14.6 per 1,000 last year. There were 191 deaths among the inhabitants of your district, 10 more than in the previous year. The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: heart and circulatory diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases.

Statistics relating to death rates and the causes and ages at death are given in tabular form at the end of the section on vital statistics.

Infant Mortality and Peri-natal Mortality

There were no infant deaths during the year, compared with 5 in the previous year.

The total infant mortality rate for 1972 was Nil per 1,000 compared with 21.3 per 1,000 for the previous year and with 17.0 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The peri-natal mortality rate for your district takes into account the still-birth figures and those deaths occurring in the first week of life, and in 1972 this figure was 14, compared with 4.3 in the previous year and with 22.5 for the Administrative County. The comparable figure for England and Wales for the year was 22.0.

Maternal Mortality

I am happy to report that no deaths occurred from this cause during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	TOTAL	
											M	F
gnant neoplasm - phagus										1	-	1
gnant neoplasm - ach								2	1	2	2	3
gnant neoplasm - stine								1	2	2	4	1
gnant neoplasm - s, bronchus							1	4	1	1	4	3
gnant neoplasm - st							2				-	2
gnant neoplasm - rus									1		-	1
ignant neoplasm - state									2		2	-
er malignant plasms, etc.									1	3	3	1
betes Mellitus							1		1	4	2	4
emias								1		1	1	1
multiple Sclerosis							1				1	-
er diseases of vous system			1					1		1	3	-
onic rheumatic rt disease									3		1	2

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1--	5--	15--	25--	35--	45--	55--	65--	75+	TOTAL
											M
Hypertensive disease									1	2	1
Ischaemic heart disease					1		4	9	13	13	24
Other forms of heart disease							1	1	4	15	8
Cerebro-vascular disease							2		10	15	16
Other diseases of circulatory system									3	4	4
Pneumonia			1						7	6	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema							1	1	6	4	12
Other diseases of respiratory system									1		1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia								1			-
Cirrhosis of liver								2			1
Other diseases of digestive system									2	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis									1		1

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

Cause of Death	Under 1 yr.	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	TOTAL	
											M	F
Hyperplasia of state									1	1	2	-
Other diseases of genito-urinary system									1		-	1
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system								1		2	1	2
Genital anomalies								1			-	1
Debilities and ill- defined conditions										4	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents				1						1	1	1
Other accidents							1		1	1	2	1
Other external causes							1				-	1
TOTAL CAUSES	-	-	2	1	1	-	15	25	63	84	107	84

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1972

	WORSBROUGH Urban District	Aggregate Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	Sheffield Regional Hospital Board Area
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude	13.7	15.2	15.4	16.5
Adjusted	14.9	15.5	15.5	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				
Crude	12.5	12.8	12.1	10.9
Adjusted	12.3	13.0	12.9	
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	-	0.01	0.02	0.01
Other	-	0.00	0.01	0.01
All forms	-	0.02	0.02	0.02
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	0.46	0.58	0.54	0.49
Cancer of Uterus	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.08
Cancer - all forms	1.76	2.37	2.23	1.96
Cerebro-vascular disease	1.76	1.89	1.79	1.46
Circulatory disease excluding cerebro-vascular disease	4.82	4.98	4.67	4.02
Respiratory disease	1.76	1.80	1.73	1.83
Maternal Mortality	-	0.05	0.04	0.11
Infant Mortality	-	17.1	17.6	17.8
Stillbirths	14.1	12.6	12.2	11.3
Peri-natal Mortality	14.1	22.7	22.5	20.8

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer of the Council, but is engaged on whole-time Public Health work, being also Medical Officer of Health for the surrounding districts and the Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional Schools Medical Officer for Division No.25 of the West Riding County Council. The Chief Public Health Inspector and one additional inspector are employed by the Council.

General Hospitals

The general hospitals serving your district and administered through the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board are given below.

The United Group Hospitals, Sheffield.
The Barnsley District General Hospital, Barnsley.
The Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.
The Mount Vernon Hospital, Barnsley. (Geriatric)

Infectious Diseases Hospital

All infectious diseases requiring hospital admission were admitted to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. The ambulance arrangements were the same as for the previous year with the hospital retaining its own ambulance for this service.

Maternity Hospitals

Maternity cases were usually admitted to the following hospitals:

The Barnsley District General Hospital, Barnsley.
Chapelton Maternity Home, Chapelton.

The services of the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, were also available for abnormal obstetric cases.

Tuberculosis

Most patients suffering from the disease are admitted to the Wath Wood Hospital and co-operation is maintained with the Chest Physician.

Out-patients' sessions were held at the Barnsley District Chest Clinic, Pindar Oaks, Barnsley. Telephone Number - Barnsley 2182.

Venereal Diseases

The nearest centre for Worsbrough patients for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases is in Barnsley.

Address: Special Treatment Centre, Queens Road, Barnsley.

Other centres are situate at Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham, and a patient suffering from Venereal Disease is at liberty to attend at the centre of his choice. Treatment is completely confidential.

Clinic Facilities

A County Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Clinic, Oakdale, Worsbrough Bridge, on alternative Friday mornings, and at Birdwell on Tuesday afternoons and on Thursday afternoons at Blacker Hill. A doctor is in attendance at all clinics.

General practitioner child welfare and ante-natal clinics are held at the Worsbrough clinic in Oakdale. The domiciliary midwives attend the ante-natal clinics and see cases in conjunction with the practitioner. A health visitor is in attendance at each of the general practitioner child welfare clinics sessions. Food sales were held on Thursday afternoons at the Oakdale Clinic.

Laboratory Service

The laboratory service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Wakefield. The laboratory is equipped to deal with all bacteriological and pathological examinations and a complete investigation is undertaken and report furnished for every specimen sent for examination.

Samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act for chemical analysis are examined by the Public Analyst at the expense of the County Council.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is operated by the West Riding County Council, the depot for your area being at Hoyland, Telephone Number Barnsley 742112.

SECTION III

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

292 cases of infectious diseases occurred during 1972, compared with 58 cases in the previous year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1972

						<u>Total cases notified</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	7
Measles (excluding German Measles)						283
Jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1</u>
TOTAL						292

Smallpox

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

No case of diphtheria and no case of whooping cough occurred during the year, compared with 5 cases of whooping cough in the previous year.

Infectious Jaundice

During the year one notification of the disease was reported.

Poliomyelitis

No case of poliomyelitis was reported during the year.

Measles

283 notifications were received, mostly in the second quarter of the year, compared with 38 notifications in 1971.

Tuberculosis

One new case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a female aged 52 years, was notified during the year. No deaths from the disease were reported.

Thorough follow-up and examination of contacts was performed to eliminate any possible spread of infection. Free vaccination of all susceptible children entering the High School with B.C.G. vaccine is offered during the Spring of each year and I would ask all parents to take advantage of the scheme whereby the children are given good protection against this serious disease. Information showing the record of cases and the mortality from Tuberculosis is given in the following table.

TUBERCULOSIS - Record of Cases during 1972

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
No. of cases on register at 1st January, 1972	23	16	1	4
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year				1
No. of cases restored to register otherwise than by notification	1			
No. of cases removed to other districts				
No. of cases cured or otherwise removed from register	1			
No. died from Tuberculosis				
No. died from other causes				
TOTALS AT END OF 1972	23	16	1	5

SECTION IV

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

This is my twenty-ninth contribution to these Annual Reports on the health of Worsbrough and it will most probably be my last because figures for the 1973 Report are not likely to be available to us before Worsbrough becomes part of the Barnsley District Council on the 1st April 1974. My only hope is that with the help of all the different Councillors, the four medical officers and different members of the staff over those years, I have helped to make Worsbrough a better place than it was in 1944 from a public health point of view.

I have said before that one of my cherished dreams was to see 'New England' erased from the map and replaced by attractive dwellings and tree-lined streets, but it was not to be: My hope is that the new Barnsley District Council will regard it as something that needs to be done as soon as possible and also take the opportunity of doing something really worthwhile with the area which lies each side of the A61 and surely warrants some special treatment being part of the main approach from the south to the new town centre.

My next dream was to see the whole of Worsbrough smokeless. Within weeks of the passing of the Clean Air Act 1956 I had submitted plans for our first smoke control area, it was accepted by the Council, submitted to the Ministry and then began a series of events which stifled the project. I also had drawn up plans shewing areas covering the whole district and the order in which they should be made. We could have been the first in Yorkshire, whereas we were in the last four!

I am glad though that in 1972 the Council did declare our first smoke control area, which was confirmed in 1973 but does not become operative until 1st July, 1974.

I should like to record my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Oddy, with whom that splendid co-operation has been maintained which is so essential to the relationship between the Medical Officer and the Public Health Inspector.

One person has remained throughout the whole of those twenty nine years, and that has been my Chairman, Councillor Randolph Atkinson, and furthermore he has been the Public Health Chairman for all of those years except one: He has given sterling service to this community and I must

thank him for all the help, advice and understanding he has given me for so long now.

My thanks are also again due to the members of the Council, to Mr. Ames, to Joan Goldthorpe and to my fellow officials for all their co-operation in 1972.

Your obedient servant,

LYNDON DOVE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

The district's water supply is provided by the Barnsley Corporation under the terms of the Barnsley Water Order 1961.

The supply has been both plentiful and wholesome during the year, although it is sometimes difficult to convince people that the latter is true when their supply is as discoloured as it sometimes is. These complaints usually arise from the occupiers of houses which are in a cul-de-sac and whose water mains form a dead-end. Deposits gradually accumulate here and at a certain stage they find their way into houses by the service pipe. The Water Board usually systematically flush these mains in an effort to avoid this inconvenience to householders.

There are no houses in our area which do not have a piped supply.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There were no conversions to water closets during the year.

As will be seen from the table below, we have six privies in the area; but these are out in the outlying countryside where no sewer is available and consequently where we cannot compel conversion.

The approximate number of sanitary conveniences in the area is as follows:-

Water closets	5381
Waste water closets	10
Privies	6

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The services of street sweeping, street gully emptying, snowremoval and maintenance of public conveniences are all regarded as public cleansing. These are the responsibility of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is my responsibility.

As recorded last year, the Council was offered 500 plastic sacks by Messrs. BXL of Darton, which they accepted, to give the refuse sack system a trial.

I selected 120 houses for an experiment lasting one month. The collectors agreed to co-operate and I circulated the selected householders asking for their co-operation too, and the response was marvellous.

The houses I selected were intended to give a fair cross section of the nature of bin contents in the area. They were:-

Ward Green council houses	20
Northern Ideal Homes estate, Ward Green (private development)	18
Osmond Drive council houses (mainly Scottish miners)	32
William Street (old terrace type property)	<u>48</u>
	<u>118</u>

In addition, a sack was also provided at each councillor's home to enable him to judge for himself how it was suited to his own needs and thus be better enabled to form an independent opinion as to their general use throughout the district.

The trial was a success and was appreciated by the men and also favourably received by the people taking part in the experiment.

The Council agreed to put the scheme into operation and just over one thousand houses were on to refuse sacks.

With local government reorganisation coming into effect on the 1st April 1974 it was obvious that we could not achieve 100% refuse sack system by that date, and to save expense all round, I advocated the bin-liner method, which would also allow the new authority, if they wished, to easily revert to bins which will be the vastly predominant system in the enlarged area.

(The Council further extended the system in 1973, and it now covers 2,150 houses.)

We continued to give the ratepayers a good service, bins being emptied weekly summer and winter alike and even following Bank Holidays such as Christmas Day and Boxing Day we are back on schedule by the following weekend. I think our residents are aware of this, and the number of complaints we receive are very few indeed.

At the beginning of the year the two collection vehicles in use were, a 14 cu. yd. S & D fore & aft tipper (January 1963) and an 18 cu. yd. Karrier Gamecock dual tipper (March 1968.)

The S & D had given us excellent service, but it had reached the end of its economical life, and so I recommended its replacement.

Strictly speaking, a vehicle of the same size, 14 cu. yds, would have been adequate for our own needs, but I felt that we should have some regard to the requirements of the new metropolitan district in which most of its life would be spent.

Accordingly, we had two vehicles on demonstration which had provision for mechanically packing the refuse, and the Council agreed to purchase a Karrier 12/35 cu. yds. "Musketeer". Although the vehicle was ordered in April it was not delivered until December and actually came into operation on the 4th December and has shewn me that mechanical packing is far more useful than gravity packing.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

Our sole refuse tip is at Swaithe, Worsbrough Dale, and has been so for a long time now.

As recorded in previous years, it is an excellent site from the amenity point of view being well away from any houses, other than those belonging to the farmer and his family on whose land we are tipping.

The site is that of the old Swaithe Main Colliery which was destroyed by an explosion in 1873, and has become extremely poor grazing land over the years. Our main difficulty is the lack of covering material and we are dependent on this being brought from building operations round about plus the use of house refuse which has been tipped for several years.

Unfortunately, its isolated position also encourages the activities of all the scroungers from Worsbrough, Wombwell, Barnsley, Cundy Cross and elsewhere who spend hours sorting on the tip and then scatter far and wide across the river when the police arrive. Nevertheless the occasional ones are prosecuted but the low fines imposed by the magistrates do not prove to be a very good deterrent.

One of the results of these persons' activities is tip fires and we did have quite a serious one in August which we were a week bringing under control and later in the same month we had a further fire which was burning for two days.

As reported last year, the Council took delivery of an International Harvester H30 Payloader which has made the lot of the tip attendant a much happier one.

In December the Barnsley & District Joint Refuse Disposal Committee issued its final report on the question of an incinerator to serve the areas represented on the Committee, which are also the same areas which will form the new Barnsley District Council on the 1st April 1974.

As recorded in previous reports the Committee was formed of a Council member and the officer responsible for refuse disposal from each of the local authorities which constituted the Committee.

This Final Report stated that the technical officers had completed their investigations, that a feasibility study had taken place and they were now recommending that a new Committee be formed consisting initially of two council members from each constituent authority and that the new committee appoint such officers as they think necessary to proceed with the project (i.e. clerks, treasurers etc.)

It also recommended that a site be purchased and that the site be the former Yorkshire Tar Distillers' works at Stairfoot. It was 16 acres in extent, and the cost was £65,000 of which Worsbrough's share would be about £4,250 on a population basis.

This Council accepted the report and appointed two representatives but some members were far from happy at the choice of site. They contended that it was far too near the new housing development at Ardsley.

This is one of the matters which the new Committee will discuss in consultation, presumably, with the Town Planning officer and it seems obvious that the whole project will now be finally decided by the new metropolitan district after the 1st April 1974.

It is a great pity that this scheme was not fully settled before this date, but a tremendous amount of work was involved and it took longer than most of us anticipated.

It all depends now on what attitude the new South Yorkshire County Council takes, as they will be the authority responsible for refuse disposal under the new "set-up", but I fear our work will have been for nought.

CARAVANS

There are at present no sites in the area which are licensed under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

Town and Country Planning approval is being sought, however, to establish such a site which would lie partly in Worsbrough but mainly in the Penistone Rural District. It is intended to be a touring caravan site and it will be in really lovely country surroundings.

CLEAN AIR

Two applications for prior approval under section 3(2) of the Clean Air Act 1956 were received during the year.

The first was for the installation of a gas-fired boiler at the new Blacker Hill Infant Council school. I wrote to the architects concerned and told them that my Council would not be happy with the decision to use gas when we were 'stood' on a coalfield. Their reply was that it would be uneconomical to provide a boilerhouse and fuel store for such a small school, and of course we had no alternative to accepting the proposal.

The second case was for another new school, the Lobwood Infants.

It was again for the installation of a Beeston boiler but a coal-fired one this time and as both the plant and the proposed chimney height were in order I recommended approval.

At the inception of the 'National Survey of Air Pollution' in 1963, Worsbrough was one of the original local authorities invited to operate a daily recording apparatus for the determination of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

Each year the Ministry, now the Department of Trade and Industry, publish a detailed yearly summary of the readings and it is worth recording the 1971 figures and comparing them with the previous six years.

Annual average figures for smoke and sulphur dioxide
1966-1971 at Worsbrough Bridge 1.

Year ended March	Microgrammes per cubic metre	
	Smoke	Sulphur Dioxide
1966	167	102
1967	142	93
1968	127	88
1969	128	103
1970	124	99
1971	119	100

It is pleasing and perhaps a little surprising to learn that the smoke pollution in Worsbrough had fallen from 167 to 119 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in that period, a reduction of 28.7%.

This is due almost entirely to householders themselves going over to smokeless forms of heating and gave an idea of what official smoke control areas would achieve.

The sulphur dioxide figure had, apart from fluctuations, shown little decrease in this period, but it was gratifying that it had not increased.

COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

There is one of these in the area, the one at the Barrow Colliery, and this has been kept under excellent control for many years now.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

No complaints of nuisance arising from noise were received during the year under review.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of the year there were 51 premises registered under the Act, a decrease of 3 on last years total.

There were two new registrations, one office and one retail shop, and five deletions which were one office, one canteen and three retail shops.

304 visits were made to registered premises for the purpose of carrying out a general inspection.

It was only necessary to serve three notices in respect of minor infringements of the Act.

There were no accidents reported during the year.

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Office	1	10	10
Retail shops	1	31	31
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	51	51

Table B

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises 304.

Table C

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons employed</u>
Offices	15
Retail shops	68
Wholesale departments, warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	40
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
TOTAL	124
Total males	31
Total females	93

ERADICATION OF BEDBUGS

Two houses were sprayed against bedbugs during the year with pybuthrin/DDT.

OTHER PESTS

Forty complaints were also received regarding other insect pests and either advice or assistance were given for dealing with them.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There are no persons in the district licensed to keep a pet shop.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

There is one person licensed to keep premises in Sheffield Road, Birdwell as an animal boarding establishment.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT 1964

There were four persons registered under this Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

The main retailers in the area are the Co-operative Retail Service and Express Dairies (Northern) Limited.

In addition we have two producers of farm bottled untreated milk.

One of these has a large pedigree herd which has been 'closed' since 1939 and he bottles his milk on the farm and sells it to the Co-operative Retail Service.

The other has a small 'flying' herd, cartons his milk on the premises to sell to his customers and sells the surplus to the dairy.

Regular sampling of these raw milks, and others which are sold in the district, takes place and twenty-one samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All were 'satisfactory' and it was not necessary to take any 'follow up' samples.

Only four samples of 'pasteurised', one of 'sterilised' and one of 'UHT' were taken during the year.

Ice cream

There are 54 premises registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of ice cream.

Sampling of this product is carried out but the number is not large for the reason I have given in the past.

Nineteen samples of four manufacturers' product were taken and all were placed in Grade I of the Ministry's provisional grading table.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, the Council having taken advantage of section 4 of the Slaughterhouses Act 1954 and closed them by resolution under that Act at that time.

Food hygiene

882 inspections of food premises have been carried out during the year and the standard on the whole is pretty good.

Food poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

Food complaints

No complaints were received during the year regarding the quality or adulteration etc. of food.

Condemned food

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for various reasons.

- 1 x 6 lb 12 oz tin of pineapple.
- 5 x 12 lb tins of cooked ham.
- 1 x 6 lb 8 oz tin of processed peas.
- 1,072 packets of assorted frozen foods.
- 2 x 4 lb 15 oz jars of gooseberries.
- 27 blocks of ice cream.
- 1 packet of crab meat.
- 6 x 6 lb 1 oz tins of red plums.

The condemned packets of various frozen foods were all occasioned by breakdowns of frozen food cabinets at retail shops in the district.

HOUSING

New houses

20 houses were completed by the Council's direct labour force during the year.

The number of houses they completed in the preceding five years was as follows:-

1967	--	10 dwellings
1968	--	40 dwellings
1969	--	20 dwellings
1970	--	18 dwellings
1971	--	24 dwellings

In addition, 42 further houses were built by private enterprise.

Unfit houses

No. 8 Allotts Court was closed as unfit last year. The house was an 'end' one of three cottages and I recommended

the action the Council took for two reasons (a) the gable end was shored up by the National Coal Board and (b) it was so small that I considered that "internal bad arrangement" existed.

During the year under review I was approached by the owner-occupier of the adjoining No.7 who wanted to buy the property and make the two houses into one. The National Coal Board assured me that all movement through subsidence had ceased.

I recommended the Council to agree the proposal, which they did, and the result was an excellent conversion.

Only one other house was considered unfit, as apart from the 'New England' area we have only the occasional individual unfit house.

This was No.30 Wentworth Road, Blacker Hill, an owner-occupied house which has gradually deteriorated. Owing to the fact that it did not rate an improvement grant because it had the standard amenities the owner could not see his way clear to afford the money needed to make the house fit.

By agreement, a demolition order was made and the man and his family will be rehoused in a council house.

Circular 50/72 from the Department of the Environment required all local authorities in England and Wales to submit an "Estimate of Condition of Housing Stock in Mid 72".

The following was Worsbrough's estimate in the form laid down by the circular:-

A. - ESTIMATE of CONDITION OF HOUSING STOCK IN MID-1972

<u>Number of dwellings</u>	
<u>L.A.</u>	<u>Other</u>

Unfit dwellings(a)

1. In areas already declared under Part III Housing Act 1957	-	-
2. In other areas to be declared under Part III H.A. 1957	162	170

	Number of dwellings	
	L.A.	Other
3. No. in Part III areas		8
4. Total of unfit dwellings (1 + 2 + 3)	162	178
<u>Dwellings not unfit</u>		
5. Up to 12 point standard	2525	2037
6. Capable of improvement to 12 point standard		382
7. Not capable of improvement to 12 point standard		36
TOTAL DWELLINGS in area (4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	2687	2633

The estimate, which had to be prepared at comparatively short notice, was based on a combination of the knowledge in the department, extraction of the complete improvement grants records from the Clerk's Department and inspection of properties in doubt, and I am sure it will be as accurate as an estimate can be.

There are some very interesting figures revealed by the exercise.

It will be seen that the Council own more houses than are privately owned in the district.

The number of houses in the area requiring improvement is 418.

Of these, 210 are owner-occupied and 208 tenanted, which means that only 7.9% of houses in the area are without a bath and more than half of these are owner-occupied. I did not regard this as an ideal state of affairs, but I think it was one that we should feel more pride than shame in, and I think that perhaps many authorities in the country could envy. It was also a figure that was improving all the time as applications for 75% improvement grants came in.

We shall never reach 100% because there are many owners and owner/occupiers who either cannot afford to improve their properties or because of their age are just not interested in having a bathroom.

It will be seen that there are 340 houses listed as unfit in the area, of which 162 belong to the Council.

This figure is rather misleading, but it refers to the whole of New England which will be eventually cleared as an Improvement Area.

B. - OVERALL STRATEGY

The recommended strategy, which the Council accepted, was to encourage the owners of the outstanding 418 houses to improve their houses whilst the 75% grant is still with us, and to deal with New England as early as it is possible by re-development. This latter will not come about in the life of Worsbrough U.D.C., but our plans should be so laid that the new authority accept them for early implementation.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for a Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

Improvement Grants

123 applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year.

The number of applications received during the past five years are as follows:-

1967	-	39
1968	-	48
1969	-	47
1970	-	56
1971	-	67

House loans

51 advances were made by the Council during the year to persons wishing to buy or build their own houses.

FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises	No. on Regis- ter	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authority	1	3		
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	63		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises				
TOTAL	20	66		

Part VII of the Act - Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

There are no out-workers registered under the above Act.

SECTION V

DIVISIONAL STAFF (as at 31st December, 1972)

Divisional Medical Officer

C. G. Oddy, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Senior Departmental Medical Officer
(Clinical) Half-time

C. H. Merry, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M.

Departmental Medical Officer
Half-time

C. B. Ball, L.M.S.S.A.

Clinic Medical Officers

Dr. L. Burke

Dr. J. D. Byrne

Dr. G. C. Curtis

Dr. D. J. Fairclough

Dr. H. W. Gothard

Dr. G. L. Herbert

Dr. S. S. Mahatme

Dr. K. Mathers

Dr. M. S. Scott

Dr. A. C. Stewart

Dr. M. E. Tapissier

Dr. L. Taylor

Middle Line Manager:

Divisional Nursing Officer

Miss. M. E. Pilling

First Line Managers:

Senior Health Visitor

Senior Home Nurse

Senior Midwife

Miss. M. Sorby

Miss. B. Chapman

Mrs. A. W. Jones

Health Visitors

Miss. A. Baxendale

Mrs. D. Dyson

Mrs. I. Grazier

Miss. E. J. Long

Miss. M. E. Lee

Mrs. B. Martin

Mrs. B. McDonald

Mrs. D. M. Parry

Mrs. K. Rowe

Mrs. A. T. Saunders

Miss. D. Westerman

Mrs. A. M. Widdison

Assistants to Health Visitors

Mrs. E. Allen

Mrs. E. C. Evans

Mrs. J. C. Greensmith

Mrs. D. Hodgson

Mrs. J. N. Spurr

Mrs. M. M. Stancliffe

Home Nursing Sisters

Mrs. P. A. Brown
Mrs. J. M. Burton
Miss. N. C. Crofton
Mrs. E. Cross
Mrs. M. Falconer
Mrs. S. P. Gregory
Mrs. P. E. Hall
Mrs. H. M. Hirst

Mrs. C. Holding
Mrs. M. Jarvis
Mrs. S. D. Newton
Mrs. D. Palmer
Mrs. B. Parker
Mrs. P. Rodwell
Mrs. J. B. Seales

Midwives

Mrs. H. Biegalski
Mrs. B. Burns
Mrs. R. Dennison
Mrs. B. Fitzpatrick
Miss. J. Hampton
Mrs. E. Harper

Mrs. I. L. Jones
Miss. M. T. Rochford
Mrs. J. Rose
Miss. A. C. Senior
Mrs. M. Walters
Mrs. A. Williams

Speech Therapists (Part-time)

Mrs. J. M. Pearson

Miss. J. Thackeray

Divisional Administrative Officer

L. S. Wrigg, M.R.S.H.

DIVISIONAL REPORT

Vital Statistics

A table of comparable vital statistics is shown for each of the County districts in the Division. This may be of interest to each authority in assessing how each stands in relation to each other and in relation to the County and National statistics.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population in the Division at mid 1972 was 78,850, compared with 78,650 in the previous year. The natural increase in population showing the number of births over deaths was 216 in 1972, compared with 454 in the previous year.

Births

The number of live births registered in the Division in 1972 was 1,157, compared with 1,333 in 1971. This is equivalent to a crude birth rate of 14.7 per 1,000, compared with 16.9 per 1,000 in the previous year. The number of illegitimate live births was 71 in 1972. This represents 6.1% of the total births, compared with 5.8% in 1971 and 7.0% in 1970.

Stillbirths

There were 13 stillbirths during the year, compared with 16 during 1971. This gives a stillbirth rate of 11.1, compared with 11.9 in 1971 and with 12.0 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the Division after the addition and subtraction of inward and outward transfers was 941, which was 62 more than in the previous year. This gives a crude death rate for the Division of 11.9, as compared with 11.2 in 1971.

Maternal Mortality

I am happy to report that there was no death from this cause during the year. The maternal mortality rate for the Division was Nil, compared with 0.04 for the administrative County and with 0.15 for England and Wales.

VITAL STATISTICS

District	Acres	Registrar General's Estimate of Population mid 1972	Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population	Still- birth Rate	Infant Death Rate	Peri-natal Mortality Rate
CUDWORTH	1,746	8,720	14.6	14.7	-	8.0	8.0
DARFIELD	2,018	7,840	15.5	16.7	7.4	14.8	14.7
DARTON	4,718	15,530	14.4	11.9	8.8	13.3	13.2
DODWORTH	1,857	4,540	12.8	14.5	-	17.2	17.2
ROYSTON	1,452	8,880	12.6	14.2	-	-	-
WOMBWELL	3,850	18,000	17.3	13.1	23.5	24.1	36.9
WORSBROUGH	3,420	15,340	14.9	12.4	14.1	-	14.1
DIVISION NO. 25	19,061	78,850	14.7 (crude)	11.9 (crude)	11.1 (crude)	12.1	17.9
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY		1,814,830	15.5	12.9	12.2	17.6	22.5
ENGLAND AND WALES		49,028,900	14.8	12.1	12.0	17.0	22.0

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS IN THE DIVISION

	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Under 4 wks	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	TOTAL
Congenital defects	2	1	-	1	4	-	-	1	-	5
Asphyxia and prematurity	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Brain haemorrhage	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Respiratory distress syndrome	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Acute respiratory infections	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Extreme prematurity	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	8	1	-	1	10	3	-	1	-	14

Infant Deaths and Peri-natal Mortality Rates

There were 14 infant deaths in the division in the year, of which 10 occurred in the neo-natal period. This compares with 20 and 5 respectively in the previous year. These figures represent an infant mortality rate for the division of 12.1, compared with 15.0 for the previous year and with 17.2 for England and Wales.

Of the 14 infants who died under one year of age, 11 were born in hospital and 3 at home.

The illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births was 14.1 for the division, compared with 21.0 for England and Wales.

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis Immunisation

Pre-school children The West Riding computer scheme of routine immunisation continued to operate during the year and resulted in a high immunisation rate for these diseases. As explained in previous reports, records of these procedures are now stored centrally and it is, therefore, no longer possible to present local district statistics as in the past.

Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccination against smallpox is now no longer recommended as a routine procedure in infancy.

Measles Immunisation

The computer scheme for routine immunisation of susceptible children against measles at the age of sixteen months, using a Schwartz type of strain of vaccine of proven efficacy and safety, was continued during 1972. The procedure was well accepted and the following table shows that 919 children received measles vaccine during 1972, compared with 1,191 during 1971.

Measles Immunisation 1972

	Year of Birth					Others under 16 years	TOTAL
	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68		
Number Immunised	—	477	387	25	30	—	919

Tetanus Immunisation

Schoolchildren. Immunisation against Tetanus continued during 1972. Every effort was made to encourage the administration of active Tetanus immunisation in children, in order to avoid the use of anti-tetanus serum in case of injury. The table below shows the numbers of school-children actively immunised against Tetanus during the year.

Tetanus Immunisation

	Primary	Booster
No. immunised during 1971	1,606	1,137
No. immunised during 1972	1,205	2,576

Poliomyelitis

During the year 1,237 children were vaccinated with three doses of oral vaccine, and 21219 booster doses were given. I am pleased to report that no cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

	Year of Birth					Others under 16 years	TOTAL
	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965-68		
Primary course of oral (3 doses)	18	859	252	15	72	21	1,237
Booster (4th dose)	All age groups eligible						2,219

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The number of children examined at routine medical inspection fell during the year to a total of 1,352. The method of "selective" medical inspection continued in the case of children attending junior and senior schools in the Division.

During the year it proved impossible, once again, to recruit a full-time Deputy Medical Officer of Health or Departmental Medical Officer. This has had the effect of placing the full responsibility for medical administrative duties and all Medical Officer of Health duties for the constituent district councils in the Division on the shoulders of the Divisional Medical Officer. This was not really a satisfactory state of affairs from the long term point of view as it was necessary in these circumstances to "streamline" duties in order to ensure that important and essential matters received a reasonable amount of attention. It has at times proved to be impossible to attend to all matters of a routine or non-essential nature. I cannot praise too highly the assistance and co-operation I have received from the administrative staff of the Divisional Health Office and the Public Health Inspectors and other officials of the district councils during what has proved to be another trying and difficult year.

B.C.G. Vaccination

Routine Mantoux testing and B.C.G. vaccination continued during 1972. A total of 820 children entering senior schools in the Division were vaccinated against Tuberculosis. The results of vaccination scheme are shown in the following table.

	Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	% Positive	Number found to be Negative	Number Vaccinated
Senior schools in Division	924	54	6.6	820	820
Tuberculosis contact scheme	51	2	4.0	49	49

In addition, 47 babies received B.C.G. vaccination shortly after birth.

Rubella Immunisation

Protection against Rubella in susceptible girls in their fourteenth year of life continued and parents were allowed the choice of having the procedure carried out at either school or the family doctor's surgery. The majority of parents took advantage of the scheme which is aimed to prevent the development of congenital defects as a result of Rubella infection during subsequent early pregnancy.

479 doses were given during 1972, compared with 353 doses in 1971.

Speech Therapy

During the summer of 1972, Miss. J. Thackeray commenced duty as part-time speech therapist in this Division. This enabled me to extend a more comprehensive service to all parts of the Division.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Defect	Periodic Inspections	Special Inspections
Eye	22	2
Ear, nose and throat	16	13
Heart	1	2
Lungs	-	1
Orthopaedic	2	2
Other	16	12

SCHOOL DOCTORS' AND SPECIALIST CLINIC ATTENDANCES

OPHTHALMIC	836
ORTHOPAEDIC	457
CHILD GUIDANCE	181

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

Reference was made to the opening of the Barnsley District General Hospital General-Practitioner Unit during 1971 in my previous report. During 1972 the work in the unit expanded and there was a corresponding reduction in the number of women confined at home.

During the year 106 cases were delivered by domiciliary midwives in the unit.

The number of cases attended by domiciliary midwives fell to 295, compared with 352 in the previous year. There were 970 institutional confinements, compared with 1,028 in 1971. The proportion of patients delivered in hospitals and maternity homes rose from 77.4% to 83.3% in 1972.

The proportion of domiciliary patients receiving some form of analgesia was 69.8%.

	No. of cases
Pethidine	42
Trilene alone	45
Trilene and Pethidine	45
TOTAL	132

ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND RELAXATION CLASSES

	NUMBER OF WOMEN ATTENDING ANTE-NATAL CLINICS		TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS		ATTENDANCES AT RELAXATION AND MOTHERCRAFT CLASSES	
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	By Hospital Booked Patients	By Domiciliary Booked Patients
CUDWORTH	110	31	585	31	61	34
DARFIELD	-	-	-	-	168	110
DARTON	-	-	-	-	316	16
ROYSTON	105	58	655	58	206	80
WOMBWELL	-	-	-	-	285	91
WORSBROUGH	-	-	-	-	199	28
TOTALS	215	89	1,240	89	1,235	359

Infant Welfare Clinics

Attendances at Infant Welfare Clinics in the Division showed a further decrease. During 1972, 32,591 attendances were made, showing a decrease of approximately 9.5% over the previous year. The number of individual children attending however rose by 9%.

TABLE SHOWING INFANT WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES DURING 1972

Clinic	Total number of children attending	Number of attendances
Cudworth	527	3,649
Darfield	337	3,375
Darton	538	3,776
Staincross	290	2,225
Gawber	96	751
Dodworth	275	1,768
Royston	568	5,962
Wombwell	639	6,693
Jump	125	1,279
Worsbrough	72	497
Birdwell	170	1,801
Blacker Hill	81	815
TOTALS	3,718	32,591

Screening Techniques

The Guthrie test for phenylketonuria was continued as a routine procedure on all new born babies in the area. No case of this rare but serious disease was detected during the year.

Ortolani tests were carried out on all babies born in the Division to discover cases of congenital dislocation of the hip. If such cases are discovered early the treatment is of much shorter duration and the results enormously improved. As a result of this screening technique no less than 43 cases were referred to the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Routine Hearing Tests in Infants

A computer scheme which was introduced into the Division in March, 1968, continued during 1972. The scheme enabled the Health Visiting staff to perform simple routine hearing tests on all young babies between the ages of six and nine months. The purpose of the scheme is to detect serious loss of hearing as soon as possible, preferably before speech has been acquired. Appointments are made automatically by the computer and the information provided by the tests is recorded centrally. Follow-up appointments when indicated are also arranged.

Women's Screening Clinic

The screening clinic which commenced early in 1968, continued during the year, and 924 women attended, compared with 1,119 women in 1971. Sessions were held twice weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings by appointment.

Women's Screening Clinic 1972

Number of women attending	924
Total attendances	930

Two cases of early cancer of the uterus were detected during the year and the patients were referred to the Consultant Gynaecologist for treatment, with the co-operation of the general practitioner.

Family Planning

During the year the clinics for West Riding patients held at Queens Road, Barnsley, and Summer Lane, Wombwell were well attended.

Health Visiting

The table below shows the number of first visits made by the Health Visitors in 1972. Other visits made are no longer recorded and the information is, therefore, no longer available for statistical purposes.

HEALTH VISITING CARRIED OUT IN 1972

	First Visits
Visits to children born in 1972	1,144
Visits to children born in 1967-1971	4,957
TOTAL VISITS TO CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE	6,101
Geriatric visits other than for domestic help	1,559
Other visits including Tuberculosis	1,111
TOTAL VISITS	8,771

Health Visiting and Home Nursing Attachment Scheme

The scheme of attachment of Health Visitors and Home Nurses to general practitioners was continued during the year.

Home Nursing Service

The following table shows the number of persons receiving treatment during the year in the various age groups and the situation where treatment by the home nurse took place.

HOME NURSING CARRIED OUT DURING 1972

Place where first treatment during year by home nurse took place	Number of persons treated during year aged			
	under 5	5 - 64	65 and over	TOTAL
Patient's home	60	631	1,084	1,775
Health Centres	-	-	-	-
General Practitioners' premises (excluding those in health centres)	19	360	72	451
Maternity and child health centres	9	235	104	348
Hospital	-	-	-	-
Residential homes	-	1	28	29
Elsewhere	-	3	3	6
TOTALS	88	1,230	1,291	2,609

Geriatric Services

Excellent liaison was maintained with the Consultant Geriatrician in the form of weekly meetings at the Mount Vernon Hospital attended by the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Nursing Officer or the Senior Home Nurse and a member of the staff of the West Riding Social Services Department, together with the Consultant Geriatrician, Dr. P. K. Ramaswami, and the Hospital Social Worker. Discussions took place both with regard to the admission and discharge of geriatric patients.

Day and Night Nursing Service

This service was taken over by the County Council from the Marie Curie Trust. 32 cases requiring night nursing were assisted during 1972, compared with 8 cases in 1971.

Chiropody

The number of patients treated last year showed an increase of 44. There was an increase of 3.9% in the number receiving domiciliary treatment during the year.

DOMICILIARY CHIROPODY

District	No. of patients	
	1971	1972
Cudworth	61	78
Darfield	78	80
Darton	193	173
Dodworth	46	54
Royston	110	106
Wombwell	151	148
Worsbrough	218	252
TOTALS	857	891

CHIROPODY SERVICE

AREA	No. of sessions held	NO. OF PATIENTS TREATED IN CLINIC OR SURGERY			NO. OF TREATMENTS CARRIED OUT IN CLINIC OR SURGERY			NO. OF PATIENTS TREATED AT HOME			NO. OF TREATMENTS CARRIED OUT AT HOME		
		Pen-sioners	Physically Handicapped	E.M.	Pen-sioners	Physically Handicapped	E.M.	Pen-sioners	Physically Handicapped	E.M.	Pen-sioners	Physically Handicapped	E.M.
Cudworth	62	145	4	-	431	6	-	74	4	-	196	15	-
Darfield	92	211	6	-	682	24	-	77	3	-	333	11	-
Darton	100	211	14	-	784	31	-	163	10	-	784	56	-
Dodworth	98	191	2	-	783	8	-	53	1	-	282	5	-
Royston	124	219	6	-	977	15	-	103	3	-	459	13	-
Wombwell	189	438	14	3	1,503	43	3	145	3	3	612	11	-
Worsbrough	236	407	7	-	1,810	28	-	245	7	-	1,015	28	-
DIVISIONAL TOTALS	901	1,822	53	3	6,975	155	3	860	31	-	3,681	139	-

Loan of Equipment

This service was continued and issues made as indicated below:

	<u>No. of issues</u>
Bedding - blankets	16
pillows	14
pillow-cases	30
sheets	56
Bed cradles	57
Bed pans	289
Bed rests	100
Bedsteads with poles	25
Bedsteads other	11
Commodes	75
Cushions - Dunlopillo	7
Mattresses	49
Rubber sheets	339
Walking aids including crutches	203
Wheel chairs - adult	52
junior	10
Adult cot	5
Fracture boards	18
Hydraulic hoists	1
Sleepskin or similar	35

Health Education

The health visitors, with the co-operation of many schools, mounted major campaigns on accident prevention, using the instructive visual aids, e.g. puppet displays, which are available on loan from the County Health Education Department. The schools opened their doors to the public who were passing by and groups such as the Darby and Joan Clubs, Mothers' Clubs, Play Groups and members of the Fire Service, visited the exhibition and spoke highly of the value of the displays. To complement the exhibition in the schools, smaller displays were arranged in the individual clinics. Assistance, which we are grateful for, was given by the Health Education staff, school teachers and pupils. Following on from this campaign, the division has noted a fall in the number of accidents by poisoning to children in the 0 - 5 years age groups, although the main cause of poisoning is still our friend and foe, the aspirin.

Talks have been given on Safety in Retirement to the Home and Road Safety Committee, Home Helps and Wardens.

These aroused interest, and the local Council sponsored a poster competition for children in local schools. Members of the health visiting staff were asked to judge the entries, which proved no easy task.

School Health Education programmes have increased in number, and outside services are assisting by giving talks, e.g. Family Planning and the County Ambulance Service. It is interesting to note that more and more children are requesting aid and material from the Health Visitors in preparation for projects, and the health visitors are keen to give as much assistance as possible.

